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(b) whether there is any rule to the effect that unless certain prescribed amount is realized from excise auctions the sales must either be postponed or re-held; and

(c) whether the Government propose to make rules regarding the tapping and control of sweet juice?

A.—(a) The Government have not the information.

(b) The sales are in the first instance provisional and the Collector has power under condition V to accept or reject any bid at his discretion. If there is obvious combination and if no genuine bids are being received the selling officer may adjourn the sales.

(c) The necessary rules have already been made. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the notification published on page 1207 of Part II of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 20th June 1916, and to the notification No. 211 published on pages 1170–71 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 31st July 1928.

Town-planning

Strengthening of the staff of the Town-planning department.

* 263 Q.—Mr. K. R. KARANT: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether any, and if so, what action has been taken in the light of the suggestions made by me on 26th March 1928, to strengthen the staff of the Town-planning department; and

(b) whether the department or the Government have any, and if so, what proposals thereto?

A.—(a) & (b) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Mr. K. R. KARANT:—"May I ask the hon. Minister to expedite the consideration so that some effective steps might be taken before framing the next year's budget?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"We have asked for proposals and we are expecting them."

Agriculture

Experiments in the eradication of prickly-pear.

* 264 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state the results of the experiments so far carried out for the eradication of prickly-pear?

A.—No experiments have been so far carried out for the eradication of prickly-pear.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR:—"Is the hon. Member aware that experiments have been carried on in connexion with the utilization of prickly-pear into manure?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"As it is, the question is not clear whether it refers to the Local Government or the Government of India or foreign countries."

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Mr. R. Nagan Gowda :—" May I know whether Government have any proposals in respect of this ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" None, at present."

Bulletins published by the Agricultural and Industries departments.

* 265 Q.—Mr. J. A. Saldanha : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state the bulletins or journals relating to Agriculture—Industries and Fisheries—published by the Development Department in order to advertise and popularize the products of Government industries, and to enlighten the public about the progress in their research work ?

A.—No bulletin or journal is issued by the Development Department but departments under its control issue publications such as bulletins, leaflets, calendars, etc., embodying the results of their research or other work carried out. A list of the various publications issued by the Agricultural, Industries and Fisheries departments is placed in the Council Library.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha :—" May I know why no journal is published by the Industries department to encourage the various industries ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" Now that a suggestion is made, it will be considered."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" Is any progress made, Sir ? "

Buildings

Construction of residential quarters near the settling tanks of Kurnool water-works.

* 266 Q.—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether proposals have been made by the Collector of Kurnool that residential quarters should be built for district officers on a low-lying site adjoining the settling tanks of the Kurnool water-works ;

(b) whether the Government have passed any orders thereon ; and

(c) if they have not—

(i) whether they would take expert sanitary opinion as to the effect such buildings may have on the town's water-supply ;

(ii) whether they would depute an engineer from outside the district to examine if the Government cannot easily and more economically acquire first rate bungalows in preference to undertaking large building programmes ?

A.—(a) Yes, but the Government have no reason to think that the site is unsuitable as it was selected by the Collector after personal inspection with the Superintending Engineer and the Executive Engineer.

(b) Final orders have not yet been passed.

(c) (i) The Board of Revenue has been asked to take steps to have the site approved by the site committee of which the local Health Officer is a member.